

I am appalled at Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary just days before the election. This reminds me of my early days in the 1970's when announcers joked about rape victims and made negative and demeaning comments toward minorities --- all the time betraying their public trust as objective journalists. I thought we had better laws and regulations now, but this is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Sinclair's biased and politicized move makes it clear to me and thousands of others that when large companies control the airwaves, we get less of what our citizens deserve and need and more of what the greedy and conscienceless want for themselves and the 'haves' with whom they associate. I work with the 'have nots' so I am aware of the many needs of children and families in this country. The viewing and listening public deserves truth in every area that is reported so that we can make the right decisions for our citizens and our country. One sided news reporting does not spread truth.

We need to see real people from our own communities who represent all sides of issues -- not just biased one-sided views. Many of us yearn for honest, more substantive news about issues that matter. We have spent several years "dumbing down" our populace; let's "smarten them up" for the future needs of our children and our country.

Sinclair's actions has convinced me that we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. The license renewal process needs to mean something. I hope to see it dramatically strengthened this next year.

I trust that you will listen to these concerns and take steps necessary to save our public airwaves and our democratic way of life.

Thank you.